

**Date:** 02/03/2012

**Committee:** House Education  
House Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2091 RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Purpose of Bill:** Directs the Department of Education to establish a three-year pilot project that implements a comprehensive assessment program for certain students in grades seven, eight, and nine.

**Department's Position:**  
Oppose

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) is in opposition to H.B. No. 2091, Relating to Education, which requires the establishment of a three-year pilot project to implement a comprehensive, empirically-based assessment program for certain students in grades seven, eight, and nine in complex areas on islands with a population of at least 180,000 but less than 900,000, based on the 2010 United States Census.

Pursuant to Board of Education Policy No. 2520, "Statewide Assessment Program" and Section 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes, "Educational accountability system; annual reports", the Department currently implements a comprehensive assessment system to motivate and support the improved performance of students.

Additionally, Hawaii participates in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) as a Governing State. SBAC's priorities for a new generation assessment system are rooted in a concern for a valid, reliable and fair assessment of deep disciplinary understanding and higher order thinking skills that are

increasingly demanded by a knowledge-based economy. These priorities are also rooted in a belief that assessment must support ongoing improvements in instruction and learning, and must be useful for all members of the educational enterprise: students, parents, teachers, school administrators, members of the public, and policymakers.

SBAC is building a system of assessment upon the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school with the intent that all students across this Consortium of states will know their progress toward college and career readiness. SBAC also recognizes the need for a system of formative, interim, and summative assessments organized around the Common Core State Standards that support high quality learning and the demands of accountability, and that balance concerns for innovative assessment with the need for a fiscally sustainable system that is feasible to implement.

The assessments will be operational across Consortium states in school year 2014-15.

Further, the sum appropriated for fiscal year 2012-13 of \$53,117 is insufficient to implement such a pilot project for three grade levels in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science, including a multi-layered reporting process and consulting services.

Based on the above points, the Department opposes this measure as drafted since it duplicates our existing statewide assessment program.